

Understanding Precinct Boundaries

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Precinct boundaries

- The Official Code of Georgia describes what can be used as boundary lines for voting precincts in Section 21-2-261.1
- Acceptable features include:
 - Visible features on the ground- streets, railroad tracks, streams, etc.
 - Features on census or DOT maps
 - County or city boundaries
 - Boundaries of school grounds, churches, parks, or residential access communities

Precinct boundaries

- According to the OCGA, these boundaries are determined at the county level:

“The governing authority of each municipality shall determine and establish the number and boundaries of municipal voting precincts in accordance with the provisions of this article. Insofar as practicable, the precincts shall be the same as those for state and county elections.” (§21-2-260 b)

Precinct Boundary Change Process

- Boundary lines can be adjusted at your discretion- this can involve changing the boundaries, combining one or more precincts together, or creating additional precincts
- Georgia is no longer required to submit election changes to the U. S. Department of Justice for preclearance (*Shelby County v. Holder* June 25, 2013)

Precinct Boundary Change Process

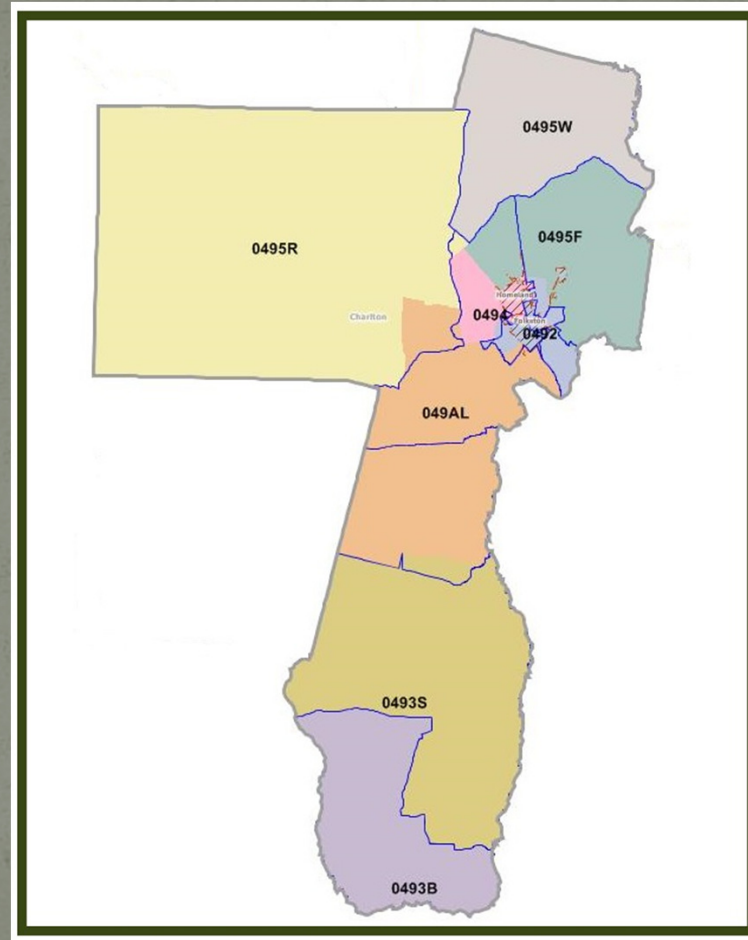
- Upon approval at your local level (Board of Elections or Election Supervisor), your changes now become final
- When precinct boundary changes are made, notification should be made to:
 - Secretary of State
 - Legislative and Congressional Reapportionment Office
 - Voters

How do we use this information?

- Request that all counties verify precinct boundaries with our office every 2 years
- Obtain General Election data from the Secretary of State to match with our geographic precinct file
- Redistrict- State and Local levels
- Produce maps and data reports
- Provide information to the U. S. Census Bureau near the end of each decade

How can we help you?

- Assist in adjusting your precinct boundary lines using identifiable features
- Provide printed maps or electronic map files to you



Recent Legislation- 2015 Session

- House Bill 26- Vote centers
- House Bill 194- Changes to early voting
- House Bill 566- Changes to certain State House Districts

Recent Legislation

- Some changes to certain local county commission and school board maps
- City creation bills- create a referendum
- City/County consolidations

Contact information

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